

4 December 1965

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

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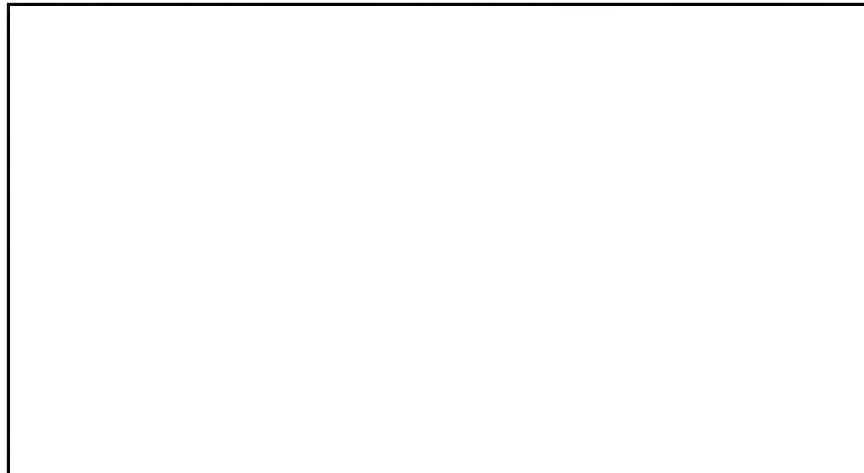
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*Vietnam: (Information as of 4:30 AM EST)

The Situation in South Vietnam: Viet Cong terrorists last night bombed an American enlisted men's billet in Saigon after first attacking US and Vietnamese guards with machine guns. Casualties in the bombing stand at one US killed and 72 injured; six Vietnamese were killed and 64 injured.

The charge, estimated as 200 to 250 pounds of plastic explosive hauled in a panel truck, damaged the lower floors of the building, the Hotel Metropole. A Claymore mine, apparently timed to explode during rescue efforts, failed to detonate.

An apparently related attempt against another US billet was thwarted when a terrorist was shot by guards before he could throw an explosive device.

Hanoi radio promptly reported the attempt against the Metropole Hotel, attributing the bombing to "Saigon Liberation Armed Forces."

A large allied operation initiated on 21 November to provide security for rice harvesting in Binh Tuy Province is proceeding on schedule. Although there has been no large-scale fighting, allied forces have killed 14 Viet Cong, captured 154, detained 77 suspects, and seized a quantity of supplies, including 45 tons of rice.

The South Vietnamese Government's Chieu Hoi ("Open Arms") Program--appealing to the Viet Cong to come over voluntarily to the government side--has been attracting an increasing number of military defectors. During the two-week period from 13-27 November, 900 enemy troops surrendered at government Chieu Hoi centers.

(continued)

During most of 1964 and early 1965, the defection rate was approximately 1.5 per thousand military members of the Viet Cong; between June and October of this year, the rate increased to five defectors per thousand. Last month, the rate was 7.5 per thousand. Although defections are still relatively few and are due to a variety of factors, the increased rate appears to substantiate reports of lowered morale within Viet Cong ranks.

Communist Political Developments: Soviet press treatment of British Foreign Secretary Stewart's Moscow TV address has been scant and reportorial. Moscow has pointedly avoided Stewart's reference to the need to convene a conference on Vietnam. Moscow TASS international service noted merely that he stressed the duty of Britain and the USSR "to help terminate the conflict." Moscow domestic service versions of the speech have omitted all mention of Vietnam.

In a subsequent news conference, Stewart declared that the Russians continue to maintain that they have no authority to negotiate for the North Vietnamese Government.

In addition, Soviet UN Ambassador Federenko's forthright public declaration of support for Hanoi in a 3 December speech indicates that Moscow has no intention of altering its fundamental commitment to the North Vietnamese regime.

Peking renewed its verbal encouragement to the Vietnamese to continue the war against the US in a People's Daily commentary on 3 December. According to Peking, the "signal victories" of the Viet Cong in the past two months "fully demonstrate the might of people's war." Viet Cong courage was called a "spiritual atom bomb" which would enable the Vietnamese to destroy any number of troops and modern weapons the US might commit to the war. The article strongly implies that the Vietnamese can defeat the US on their own and omits any reference to a possible despatch of Chinese troops to Vietnam.

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NOTES

Indonesia: [There has been no significant change in the situation. There are some indications that Sukarno plans to make an important announcement in the next few days, possibly relating to a ban on the PKI. The Communists, who appear resigned to eventual proscription of their party, are reported to be formulating plans for continued political activity through front organizations.]

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USSR-UK: [Soviet leaders indicated no change in their standard foreign policy positions during talks with British Foreign Secretary Stewart this past week. According to a preliminary British account given to US Embassy officials in Moscow, Gromyko, Mikoyan, and Kosygin reiterated the usual arguments on the issues of a comprehensive nuclear test ban, nuclear-free zones, NATO, a multilateral force, and Vietnam. The Soviets were, however, personally cordial during the discussions, and a consular convention between the two countries was signed.]

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 The Special Assistant for National Security Affairs
 The Scientific Adviser to the President
 The Director of the Budget
The Department of State
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 The Under Secretary of State
 The Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs
 The Deputy Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs
 The Counselor and Chairman of the Policy Planning Council
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The Treasury Department
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 The Under Secretary of the Treasury
The Department of Defense
 The Secretary of Defense
 The Deputy Secretary of Defense
 The Secretary of the Army
 The Secretary of the Navy
 The Secretary of the Air Force
 The Assistant Secretary of Defense (International Security Affairs)
 The Assistant Secretary of Defense
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 Chief of Staff, United States Air Force
 Chief of Staff, United States Army
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 U.S. Rep., Military Committee and Standing Group, NATO
 Supreme Allied Commander, Europe
 Commander in Chief, Pacific
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